THE JEWISH GAILY

# FORWARD

JANUARY 1982

שער זהב

TEVET/SHEVAT 5742

### A HOME OF OUR OWN!!

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

1982 finds us a couple of key steps closer to having A HOME OF OUR OWN:

RUTH HASTINGS AND COMPANY, one of the Bay Area's most popular entertainment teams, will perform in a special benefit for our Congregation in the next few months. At press time, details have not yet been finalized, but you will read more about it in coming newsletters. This event will be very special, and we expect it to add considerably to our coffers. As may of us know, too, it will mark Ruth's return to he stage after an absence for very good reason: Mazel tov! to Ruth and Craig on the recent birth of their son, Craig.

Volunteers are, of course and always, needed. This time, to help on concert publicity, ticket sales, ushering, you name it. Contact Aaron Cooper at 549-0505 to get in on the big time.

(Continued on page 5)

#### JANUARY 1 SERVICES

The Jewish Community Center will be closed on Friday, January 1. Congregation Sherith Israel (whose beautiful home many of us will recall as the site of our Shabbat service last year for the Fifth International Conference) has kindly invited us to join with them for worship at 5:30 p.m. in a service to be conducted by Rabbi Martin S. Weiner, Rabbi Allen B. Bennett and Rabbi John L. Rosove. A brief oneg will follow. We extend our thanks to our sisters and brothers of Congregation Sherith Israel for their hospitality and consideration.

#### LATE FLASH...

The VA'AD REPORT mentions that we would invite Rep. Tom and Annete Lantos to speak to our Congregation about the desperate plight of Ethiopian Jews, and what we can do about it. At press time, we learned that they have accepted our invitation for Friday, January 15, subject to confirmation which, unfortunately, we will not have until after the newsletter has to be at the printer's. An announcement will be on the Congregation answering machine, 621-2871.

#### IT'S OFFICIAL:

REPORT ON THE 56TH UAHC BIENNIAL

Fifteen inches of snow in Boston did not diminish the excitement and eagerness of our first delegation to a Union of American Hebrew Congregations Biennial Convention. This year's theme of "Cherishing Faith: Affirming Freedon" was easy for us to relate to. Our very existence as a Congregation is based upon our concern for each others needs and our desire to live both as gays/lesbians and as Jews.

The largest convention in UAHC history enthusiastically applauded the address of President Rabbi Alexander Schindler in a Shabbat sermon which both deplored the human results of Reaganomics and called on all Reform congregations to rededicate themselves to Jewish life, values, ethics and principles. Five days of workshops, plenaries and religious services provided us with much information on adult and children's education, and on a wide variety of programs.

(Continued on page 5)

#### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Attending the UAHC Biennial was both an official and a personal experience. I began to understand my own increasing acceptance of myself as a Reform Jew. In a post-conference visit with my mother, I attempted to explain that Reform did not necessarily mean abandonment of the Orthodox rituals and traditions I had been taught.

I continue to believe in the existence of God, a God who is merciful and judges us on the quality of the life we choose to lead. I believe in the synagogue as a house of worship and as a home for the creative positive energies of social action and fellowship. I am committed to leading a life which is inherently and unequivocally Jewish, a life which is true to my sexuality and to the realities of 20th century America. I am committed to many of the traditions which are different from the rites of our gentile neighbors, rituals

#### C.S.Z. LITERARY MAGAZINE

Response to our literary magazine idea has been good. As mentioned last month, because a newsletter is generally concerned with timely information, and this one is somewhat limited in space, we have decided to institute an annual or semi-annual Sha'ar Zahav magazine. We do have the intellectual resources, and will find the financial resources when we know we have the interest.

Would you like to see our Congregation undetake such a publishing project? Would you be willing to contribute your own writings? Write to the Newsletter Committee, or call Chad Cohen at 346-1599. We're hoping to hear from you soon!

The Jewish Gaily Forward is the newsletter, published 12 times annually, of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, P. O. Box 5640, San Francisco, California 94101. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given; credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard (Chad) Cohen, Catherine G. Nelson (chair), Charles Norton and Richard Usem. which offer me sustanence and spiritual satisfaction. I am not drawn to other psychospiritual offerings, because the beauties of our ritual practice and the mysteries of Torah study continue to be meaningful and relevant to me.

Reform provides for the diversity of expression and action in each Jew's life. It fosters a tradition of questioning, which can result in a commitment to a Judaism alive, vibrant and striving to be meaningful to human existence in our age.

The realization that I am unashamed to be called a Reform Jew was an important step for me. My liturgical preferences may always be more traditional, as in our Congregation's practice of Reconformadoxy. But, I am proud of the richness of diversity, experimentation and commitment to our American and Jewish heritage which I discovered in the Reform Movement.

-Paul J. Cohen

#### CHR CONFERENCE ON FPA

On Saturday, November 14, the Coalition for Human Rights sponsored a conference texplore ways to deal with the new right's Family Protection Act. The CHR is an umbrella group of Bay Area non-profit organizations united to defend human rights. Sha'ar Zahav is a member of this Coalition, and is represented by Cheryl Orvis. Rob Montague and Mark Feldman (who is also treasurer of CHR) are delegates-at-large.

This so-called Family Protection Act is a grab-bag of anti-women, anti-gay, anti-family and anti-progress legislation that has been introduced into the United States Congress. It has very strong backing from many prominent senators and representatives. President Reagan has hinted that he might support it, too.

An indication of the danger we face from this legislation (and parts of it have already been passed by the House) was demonstrated by the keynote speaker, Rep. Pete McCloskey, who stood at the CHR posium and defended parts of the Act. His actions earned him the spot he wanted on the even news, and boos at the conference. For modinformation on the FPA, contact the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) or Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

#### FROM WHERE I STAND

I have just returned from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations convention in Boston, where Sha'ar Zahav was admitted to this union of more than 750 Reform synates. Although we are not the first congregation of our kind to be admitted, we achieved an historic milestone for ourselves, a sort of coming of age, where we joined the "big kids" on the block. We became adults, officially recognized by our movement, perhaps analogous to becoming Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah.

That process, becoming a son or daughter of mitzvah, is what we usually recognize as the ritual through which a 12-year-old girl or a 13-year-old boy goes, during which he or she leads part or all of the worship service, reads from the Torah, and, depending on the situation, does some other symbolic act during a regular worship service in the synagogue. In reality, the event is simply a public affirmation that the child has reached the Jewish age of majority and is now to be considered an adult, prepared to fulfill all that expected of other adults

in the Jewish community. Traditionally, no party was involved, no grand celebration; just the recognition that there was one more adult in the community to whom we could look for support, someone else on whom we could depend.

No one has a bat mitzvah or a bar mitzvah. One becomes such. And we at Sha'ar Zahav are delighted when one of our number, at whatever age, chooses to study Judaism thoroughly enough to reach a level of Jewish maturity which one would call bar or bat mitzvah. Several of our adult members have done this; more are doing so at present. On an individual level, each member should know that we encourage this.

And on an institutional level, we are following the same course by seeking to join forces with the largest and most forward-looking movement of Jews in American history.

-Rabbi Allen B. Bennett

#### ANY JEWS ON THIS STAGECOACH?

Back in the days when the West was wild, a nice Jewish man from New York took the Monday Stage for Tucson.

Halfway across Texas, he looked out the window and was terrified to see nine people riding furiously alongside, signalling the stage to pull over and stop.

As soon as the stage came to a halt, the leader of the group swaggered over to disembarked passengers and called out in a loud, Texas drawl, "Are there any Jews on this here stagecoach?"

Quaking in his patent leather shoes, the New Yorker raised his hand. "Yes, sir, Mr. Cowboy, sir. I'm Jewish."

"Get out your tallisim," the cowboy shouted to his friends. "We got a minyan!"

Ours is the fastest growing congregation in the Bay Area, probably in all of Northern Colifornia. But there are times when we on Membership Committee feel a little like cowboys and cowgirls, chasing stagecoaches to find isolated Jews who, with a little encouragement, would join us. There's nothing wrong with that, but this business

of recruiting has to be a joint effort. In this effort, we view the Congregation as a committee of the whole.

Our ads appear in the local papers, and a number of people have found us through those. But nothing beats the personal touch.

Back in Rose of Sharon, Arkansa, where I grew up, the Methodists had a slogan: Each one bring one. The idea was that each member should encourage at least one other person to join. For them it worked. Before long, the town was absolutely full of Methodists---and very good people they were, too.

The same approach could work for us. We all have friends who would make wonderful members of this congregation. Bring them to services with you. Pass on a newsletter or a brochure. Let them know that we've all felt alienated and cut off from synagogue life in the past, but for many of us, Sha'ar Zahav has provided an opportunity for a joyful homecoming.

And that joy we are more than willing to share!

- Mike Rankin

#### FROM OUR TREASURER

To all those whose donations were received in November as a direct response to our splendid High Holidays services—thank you! As information, here is a breakdown of our expenses for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services:

Rent: JCC \$1,000.00 Sound System 400.00 Prayerbooks 644.00

Chairs - donated by Sinai Memorial Chapel

Oneg - donated by Walt Leiss Flowers - donated by Walt Leiss Musicians 65.00

\$2,109.00

Donations \$1,579.18

We hope that next year we will be able to continue our policy of opening our doors, at no charge, to everyone. For those who have been "thinking about" sending a donation--it's never too late!

Other donations received:

Clarence McClanahan Bryan Taylor Alan Berenstein Ginny Yang H. Rubinstein Nancy Meyer

and to Lotte Marcus, thank you for donating the beautiful tablecloths. We will use them in good health!

-Irene Ogus

#### RAP GROUP FORMING

Sha'ar Zahav is pleased to announce the beginning of an ongoing weekly rap group. This rap group is open to members and friends of the Congregation, and although it will be unstructured, it will address issues related to being Jewish, lesbian or gay, to family, relationships, coming out, employment and other topics which interest the group.

The group's facilitators will include Rabbi Bennett and other members of the Congregation who are experienced with rap groups. We will meet on Tuesdays, beginning on January 12, at 7:30 p.m. The first

#### VA'AD REPORT

December's Va'ad meeting heard from member Nancy Meyer about the rejuvenation of the Women's Havurah, which is having its initial gathering at Noble Pies Restaurant in San Francisco on January 24th. This first event after many months will be an opportunity for women members of Sha'ar Zahav to consider the direction for a renewed Havurah.

Coordinator Michael Freedland reported that the Ritual subcommittee to revise the High Holidays prayerbook is well along in its work, with a May target date for completion. Michael also noted that the Bikur Cholim Committee has convened and created its statement of purpose and objectives. While a number of people are actively involved in the work of this committee, a chair is still needed to oversee the activities.

The Va'ad unanimously approved a motion calling for an outreach to the Sacramento, San Jose, and Russian River areas. An informal needs assessment will first be done by contacting gay and lesbian Jews in these areas to determine their interests and what they would like to see the Congregation offer to them.

Mike Rankin presented a motion to invite Rep. Tom and/or Annette Lantos to speak to the Congregation about their perspective on the plight of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas). They have had much involvement in efforts rescue this endangered ancient Jewish community. The Va'ad decided to look towards the creation of a community-wide awareness program featuring the Lantoses, perhaps as part of a Shabbat program, with a view towards Congregational support of rescue efforts.

meeting will be at Rabbi Bennett's home, 1650 Page Street, San Francisco, and will meet there until the group finds another, larger place for meetings.

There is no charge for members of the Congregation. Non-members will be asked for a donation of \$1 per week.

Tell a friend!

#### UAHC... (from page I)

Our delegation of President Paul Cohen, Vice President Cheryl Orvis, Past Co-Leader Montague and Rabbi Allen B. Bennett Seted the news of our acceptance into the Union with both joy and pride. We sensed that a new chapter in the history of our Congregation was beginning. Membership in the Union has opened up significant resources for our development of programs of service to our members and to the thousands of potential members of our Congregation residing in the Bay Area.

The Biennial reinforced for all of us our sense of purpose in creating a family of individuals concerned with caring for each other. We explored ways for our members, those young and old, with children and without, to share in the joys of being Jewish. Too often we have supported consciousness-raising concerning homophobia and sexism without recognizing a similar need to explore how proud we should be as Jews.

We each brought home pounds of material for general reading as well as for use in various synagogue committees. The resources we collected will be useful in expanding our ual and worship experiences, aiding us in establishing exciting educational programs, strengthening our social action and outreach commitments and enhancing our own steps in developing a caring community. You can obtain these materials through your committee chair, or call the synagogue.

UAHC's offices in New York will soon send copies of resolutions passed at the Biennial which call for action by both the Union and its member congregations. The resolutions cover the social issues of abortion, draft registration, nuclear war and the internal Jewish community issues of outreach, education, conversion, membership and program. All of our members will have the opportunity to review these resolutions and participate in the development of action plans through our committees. The Biennial clearly reinforced the need for rewards of participation in congregational life throughout the year and not just on the High Holidays.

Opportunities for personal exchanges ing the Biennial were many and each of took advantage to alter stereotypes and encourage understanding and support.

Responses included congregation presidents asking us to visit them to learn about their experiences in running a congregation and

## HOME...(from page I)

On another front, our attorneys are busy negotiating for the purchase of the Bush Street synagogue - and despite our collective anxiety about the pace of the negotiations, it is all looking good. The Congregation has raised more than \$190,000 in pledges to date, and now our efforts turn to the larger lesbian, gay, Jewish and histoic preservation communities. In addition to news releases (have you noticed the coverage we've had in the Jewish Bulletin and in the Bay Area Reporter!?!?) and a general publicity drive, we will have both the concert with Ruth Hastings and Company as well as a number of smaller gatherings for friends who would like to contribute, as well. (Just like the home parties a lot of us have already attended, where we made our pledges.)

And on the subject of pledges, you may want to consider redeeming more than 1/3 of your three-year pledge before the end of December: The tax advantages work for just about everyone.

-Mark Feldman

#### SHALOM SERVICE SET

The San Francisco chapter of Dignity, an organiztion of Catholic lesbians, gay men and their friends, has invited members of other Bay Area lesbian and gay religious groups to participate in a Shalom Service, a special interfaith liturgy, on Thursday, January 21 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of St. John of God Church, Fifth Avenue and Irving Street, San Francisco. A coffee hour will follow. The event has been endorsed by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual.

also to teach about our lifestyles within Judaism, requests for us to establish a branch of the Temple Sisterhood (which we took under advisement), personal expressions of support and the private acknowledgements of an inability to understand and openly discuss the homosexuality of a child, relative, friend or friend's child.

The 56th Biennial, but Sha'ar Zahav's first, adjourned on December 8, but its challenges will be ours to confront and win for the next two years.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS --- ADVERTISEMENTS

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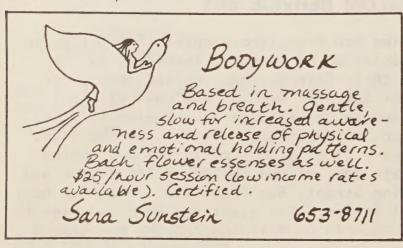
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#### **OPPORTUNITIES...**

HENIA, DOVIDA GOODMAN TO PERFORM AT BENEFIT

Henia and Dovida Goodman will appear in concert at the Herbst Theatre on Saturday January 16 at 8:00 p.m. This concert, entitled "A Celebration of Survival - From Mother to Daughter and Back Again," is sponsored by Generation to Generation and the Holocaust Research Library. Tickets are priced at \$8.50 and are available at the Symphony Box Office and through BASS outlets. Herbst Theatre is wheelchair accessible. Free childcare will be provided, and the event will be interpreted in ASL for the hearing impaired.

Join other members and friends of the Sha'ar Zahav family in supporting this very important event. See you there.

#### BRUNCH, MAGNES MUSEUM TRIP PLANNED

In last month's <u>Forward</u>, we mentioned the exhibit of paintings by Moshe Rynecki at the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley. Because of the great interest, the Program Committee has arranged for an 11:00 a.m. brunch, followed by a 1:30 p.m. docent-led tour on Sunday, January 17.

If you're interested in brunch, meet other Sha'ar Zahavniks at the Cornucopia Restaruant on Telegraph Avenue. Or, just join the group later at the Museum, 2992 Russell. Car pooling will be arranged. Call Chuck Norton, 431-9721, for further information.

## NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTE SCHEDULES MEETING

On Monday, January 11, a number of people interested in generating good public relations for Sha'ar Zahav will meet at the home of committee chair Mark Feldman. The evening will be interesting and fun, but productive as well.

The group will explore the notion of "PR" and more experienced pros will share their wisdom. Mark invites anyone who is interested in helping with the committee's work to come to 174B Liberty Street, San Francisco and be part of the group. He plans few meetings and has many small projects planned for those with limited time (which includes everyone). Call Mark for more information at 626-1694 (office).

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1	SUN	MON	TUE		THU	FRI	SAT	
	beginning of the Nebuchadnezza	et is a fast day ma siege of Jerusale r. The Babylonian emple of Solomon BCE.	arking the m by King		JCC -> CLOSED	5:30 p.m. 1 Service at Temple Sherith Israel, 2266 California, S.F.	2	
	3 n	<b>4</b>	Fast 5 Tenth of Tevet	Membership6 Committee Meeting 366-1449 N1 Mike	Eliezer ben Yehudah born (1858)	Noucy Meyer8 Will teach FOLK DANCING After services		
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	Nobed 10 Meeting 621-2871; Newsletter 10 Deadline	Public 11 Relations Committee Meeting 626-1694 TO Mork	Bikur 12 Cholim Meeting 436-6692 17 Mike	Newsletter 13 Committee Meeting 621-0628 17 Cathy	14	15	Henis and 16 Dovids Goodwan Concert, 8p.m. Herbst Thester Son Francisco ND (page 6.)	
	Brunch; 17 Mognes Museum Tour (poye 6.)	18	19	20	Dignity's 21 Shalow Service (page 5.)	22	23	
1	}							
	24	Rosh Hodesh Shevat	26 	<b>27</b>	28	ב9	30	
	31	Gregorian calend month Julian cale 45 BCE. The 12 r takes 365 1/4 days	s the new year act dar which was bas endar fixed by Jul months totaled 36 is for the earth to a added every 4 years	missed 11 minutes, and in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII fixed the mistake (by then they had 10 extra days!) by abolishing 10 days and declaring that leap year would not be observed in century years (1700, 1800) that are NOT divisible by 400. Test yourself: will 2000 be a leap year?				
	riday, Torah: Va Yigash Friday, Torah: Va-Era January 1 Genesis 44:18 - 47:27 January 22 Exodus 6:2 - 9:35							

Haftorah: Ezekiel 37:15 - 28 Join us for services at 5:30 p.m. at Temple Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street, San Francisco

(See page 1.)

Friday, January 8

Torah: Va Yehi

Genesis 47:28 - 50:26

Haftorah: | Kings 2:1 - 12

Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services

/day, January 15

Torah: Shemot Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

Haftorah: Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13;

29:22, 23

Michael Freedland, Services

Haftorah: Ezekiel 28:5 - 29:21 Rabbi Allen B. Bennett, Services

Friday,

Torah: Bo

Exodus 10:1 - 13:16 January 29

Haftorah: Jeremiah 46:13 - 28 Mike Rankin, Rob T., Services

Richard Look, Music

Creative, non-traditional service;

guided fantasy and no sermon

Everyone is welcome to join us for Shabbat services each Friday (see page 1 for note on location of January 1 services) at 8:15 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 3200 California Street (at Presidio), San Francisco.

#### **NEW CLASSES**

The Education Committee is pleased to announce two new courses which begin this month, in addition to the ongoing courses we are already offering:

A History of Judaism Taught by member Kenneth Burke, this lecture-discussion course covers Jewish history from its beginnings to the present time. Over a period of about 20 weeks, Ken will cover such areas as pre-Common Era Judaism, the rise of the first and second Jewish commonwealths, Judaism as it met its neighbors throughout the centuries, the feudal world, the Emancipation, and on into the 20th century. Two major texts will be Max Dimont's The Indestructible Jews and Cecil Roth's A History of the Jews. The course will begin in mid-January. Since the location has not been determined, persons interested in registering should call the synagogue at 621-2871.

The Jewish Apocalyptic Vision Taught by member Jay Johnson, the course covers at least four novels: Henry Roth's Call It Sleep, Mathaniel West's The Day of the Locust, Phillip Roth's Goodbye, Columbus and Tillie Olson's Tell Me a Riddle. Reading these novels is required so that participants may enjoy full involvement in the class discussions. The course meets on alternating Mondays, beginning January 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Johnson's home, 312 Holladay, San Francisco. For pre-registration of further information, call the synagogue at 621-2871.

#### **YAHRZEITS**

January

- 3 Joseph Durst, father of Shamir Ophel
- 5 Joseph Glassberg, uncle of David Glassberg
- 10 (16 Tevet) Harold Berger, father of Don Berger
- 10 Solomon Post, grandfather of Henry Carrey
- 13 Morris Gabay, father of Ed Gabay
- 14 (20 Tevet) Jack W. Heller, father of Hal Heller
- 15 Jacob Cohn, grandfather of Herb Cohn
- 16 David E. Sunstein, father of Sara Sunstein
- 21 Faye Torres, sister of Herman Siegel
- 23 Rose Auerbach, mother of Stephen Auerbach
- 24 Lea Katz, aunt of David Glassberg
- 29 Joseph Burke, father of Kenneth Burke
- 31 Phillip Kalis, father of Betty Kalis

#### NOW AVAILABLE

For a mere \$5 each, you can now have your very own copy of Sha'ar Zahav's beautiful siddur or haggadah. Both will be availa at services as long as the supply lasts.

More good news! It may take a while to reach the top of the charts, but we also have a tape of Sha'ar Zahav music, recorded by Rabbi Allen B. Bennett and Ritual Committee chair Steven Fritsch Rudser. Also \$5, and available at services.

Or, you can phone the synagogue office at 621-2871, to find out how much postage to include in your check (or VISA or Master Card order) for the items you want. Then, just sent a note with the appropriate instructions and, viola!, your library has begun.

#### TRAVELLING? CHECK HERE

We have received a warm and hearty letter from our sibling group in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Included was the request that any of our members who might be in the neighborhood get in touch. If you plan on going that way, contact the synagogue office for further details.

#### GIFT PROBLEMS SOLVED!

Wondering what to give your cousin Mergatroyd, who has always outdone everyone one presents, for a birthday gift? Even Mergatroyd can't top this: Sha'ar Zahav now can help you on these important occasions with a beautiful card (with or without the lambda in our logo) to announce that a gift has been made to the Congregation in honor or in memory of anyone, on any occasion. Call Ernie Weinstein at 566-1985 for details.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

January

- 1 Lou Greene
- 4 Steve Zakharias
- 8 Garry Koenigsberg
- 9 Ken Berman
- 10 Austin Marble
- 13 Frank Wheeler
- 17 Bob Levy
- 19 Mike Rankin
- 19 Gary Resnick
- 30 Aaron Cooper